

IEP Tidal Wetlands Monitoring Project Work Team Notes

November 12, 2015

9:00 – 12:00

DWR – West Sacramento – Room 119

DFW- Alice Low, Stacy Sherman, Rosie Hartman, Dave Contreras, Alison Furler, Phillip Poirier, Tim Stevens, Carl Wilcox (phone), Sakura Evans (phone)

DWR – Eric Loboschefskey, Gardner Jones, Louise Conrad, Pascale Goertler, Kris Jones, Ted Sommer, Randy Mager, Anitra Pawley, Brett Harvey

SFEI – Sam Safran (phone)

DSP – Karen Kayfetz, Darcy Austin, Martina Koller (phone)

DSC – Daniel Huang

USGS - Larry Brown, Bryan Downing, Jon Burau, Mike Chotkowski

BOR – Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse

MWD – Steve San Julian (phone)

ESA - Ramona Swenson, Michelle Orr

SFCWA – Kelsey Cowin (phone)

USFWS - Heather Swinney

SS - Bruce Orr (phone)

Bruce Herbold

- Introductions/Housekeeping
 - Review of meeting notes – September 2015
 - Agenda additions
- Summary of Primary Production Workshop
 - Rosie attended this workshop presented by SFEI and DWR
 - The group met and talked about what the total primary production may have been in the 1800s vs what it is today
 - If funded, this group will work on the total amount of primary production produced today vs 200 years ago
 - A report from this workshop is scheduled to be out in March or April 2016
 - Comment: Is this an update from Jassby's work?
 - Yes it would be an update to Jassby's work, but add a historical component
- New USGS Study
 - The new work is an interagency work between Bureau Of Reclamation and USGS
 - The scope of work will occur in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel (SDWSC) and tidal wetlands in Suisun Bay.
 1. The work will focus on Delta Smelt habitat in the SDWSC
 2. The work will address the ecology of the SDWSC
 3. The tidal wetland work is addressing processes

- The work is layered and contains geographic and salinity components
 - Monthly sampling of fish and water quality will be done
 - The first flush will be looked at in higher resolution (ie sampling frequency)
- Flux and water quality monitoring will be looked at Liberty Island and Little Holland Tract
 - Nitrogen, nitrate, ammonium, chlorophyll are typically collected from a wide series of fixed stations
 - Many more water quality stations would be set along the North East portion of Little Holland Tract
 - Tidal excursion differences between spring and neap tides were dramatic and should be considered when sampling
 - This project would like other parties to sample too
 - Perhaps 24 hour fish sampling for each spring and neap tide
 - Jon Bureau would like contact info for wildlands property
- Comment: For fish and zooplankton the project should compare to other regions of the Delta
- Update on Conceptual Model Text
 - Most of the text is completed
 - The transport model had some great edits and the FRP team has incorporated them into a revised document
 - The vegetation model text is coming along and the contaminants text needs a little tweaking
 - The text will be submitted for publication as an IEP technical document
 - Comment: The model text should be sent to individual people for review and edits
- Updates from Subteam Meetings
 - Data Management and Reporting
 - No meeting took place due to low attendance, sickness, and deadlines
 - Metadata and report templates have been drafted and are ready for review
 - Various other groups have been also drafting metadata templates and the FRP team should wait to see what IEP comes up with instead of “reinventing the Oreo®”
- Development of Decision Tool for Monitoring Framework
 - The subcriteria weights have been completed, but individual scores need to be developed
 - How do we score the logistics and methods for the metrics?
 - Should we discuss via subteams, email, or expert email solicitation?
 - Maybe start with expert solicitation and then go to subteams if further discussion is warranted
 - Question: How many subteams will be needed to score?
 - All subteams would need to meet
 - Comment: Prop 1 has many proposals which have costs for many of the methods proposed
 - Comment: The decision tool is static and will probably be outdated in 2-3 years

- Response: It is a living document and many people think it will still be useful to score the methods so that users of the document will have a starting point for comparison.
- 2016 Pilot Monitoring Proposal – FRP Program
IEP Management Team and Coordinator's review
 - The IEP Management and coordinator's approved phase 2 of the pilot plan but some changes were made mainly due to ESA take worries:
 - Light traps were cut because the data was quantitative and not comparable to current ongoing larval trawl surveys
 - The ESA take for juveniles was also cut in half and project will contact the management team once half of the take has been reached to get approval to keep sampling
- Development of Site-specific Monitoring Plans
 - Prospect Island
 - Some hypotheses cut and others were grouped together, which reduced the total number of hypotheses from 32 to 14
 - Many hypotheses were rewritten to fit and address the Prospect Island objectives
 - Some hypotheses were moved to the adaptive management plan.
 - The USFWS would like compliance monitoring combined with effectiveness in the monitoring plan
 - Take for monitoring must be included in permitting the construction for the project
 - Tule Red
 - A main channel will be constructed and fish food "cooker" ponds will lie in the East. The thought is that food will be exchanged once or twice a month
 - Hypotheses and metrics have been developed based on the project's objectives
 - Dutch Slough
 - A rough draft has been completed and second should be completed by the end of the month
 - The project is designed to have multiple elevations/sizes and adaptive management is intrinsic to the site